

West Indies. It was only with the greatest difficulty that these men could be provided. Ireland was denuded of troops, fresh regiments were raised in a hurry to fill their places, and foreign troops were hired to complete the English contingent to the army of the coalition.

It does not seem to have occurred either to William or to his advisers that the reduction of the army made the proper organisation of the militia a measure of the first necessity. The opponents of a standing army praised the militia but they did nothing to make it an efficient weapon against foreign invaders. That was not effected till the elder Pitt carried his militia bill in 1757-<sup>1</sup> Mr. Fortescue terms that measure 'the one truly great military reform which marks our history in the eighteenth century'. The militia, he says in another passage, was 'the salvation of the country in the Napoleonic wars \<sup>2</sup> Nevertheless, as soon as these wars ended, its services were forgotten. 'The annual training was suspended in 1829 ; and though the statutory machinery for raising, organising, and training such a force still existed nothing more was heard of the militia till after the Revolution of 1848.' It was revived and re-organised -by Lord Derby's ministry in 1852. During Macaulay's tenure of the post of Secretary at War the

militia had been nothing but a name ;  
judging from the  
references to that institution in his History he  
doubted the  
possibility of making any militia an effective  
part of the  
national defences. Hence his treatment of  
the disbanding  
controversy is somewhat one-sided : he  
echoes, with com-  
plete conviction, all the contemporary  
arguments against  
the militia, and treats the arguments  
against a standing

<sup>1</sup>Basil Williams, *Life of William Pitt* (2 vols. ; 1913), i. 277-9, 295, 403-7.

<sup>2</sup>J. W. Fortescue, *The British Army, 1783-1802* : Four Lectures (1905), pp. 26, 59.